

## Lesson 21 - OUR PRIORITY IS CHRIST      Matthew 6:25-34

**(Matt. 6:25)** - *“TAKE NO THOUGHT FOR YOUR LIFE”* - Certainly, we must give some thought to the things of this life - *“WHAT YE SHALL EAT, OR WHAT YE SHALL DRINK; NOR YET FOR YOUR BODY, WHAT YE SHALL PUT ON.”* But what we are not to do is to be consumed with anxious care and be overly concerned and worried about the daily necessities of life. *“IS NOT THE LIFE MORE THAN MEAT, AND THE BODY THAN RAIMENT?”* - The Lord forbids us to be so consumed with the pursuit of these things so as to cause us to ignore, neglect, or reject the things of God and His truth. God’s Word commands us to work for our living (2 Thess. 3:10), and it does not forbid believers to pursue better things in this life. God’s Word does not even forbid believers to enjoy the fruits of our labors and to accumulate wealth and possessions (Eccl. 3:1-15). But these things have little importance when compared to the greater matters of salvation, eternal life, and the service and worship of God as revealed in Christ. Again, what the Lord forbids is the evil pursuit of these things that lead a person to idolatry (Col. 3:5). The clear message here is that He forbids the undue, anxious cares or misplaced priorities that would cause us to neglect the greater, more important and valuable eternal matters of the Gospel and the kingdom of heaven. If we spend all our time and money on these things, this reveals what our true treasure is and where our heart truly is. Our priority is to be salvation and the glory of God in Christ (Col. 3:1-4).

**(Matt. 6:26-30)** - Look intently and pay attention to the birds and learn from them (cf. Job 12:6-10). The birds do not worry over their next meal. They do not sow, reap, or gather into barns, yet the Lord feeds them (Psa. 147:9). This is not promoting idleness in people. The birds hunt and work for their food, but they do worry and agonize over it. The Lord provides for them. Would not the Lord, then, mercifully provide for those creatures whom He created for His glory in Christ and by His covenant grace in Christ? What are the birds compared to the people of God’s grace whom He loves and redeemed by the blood of His Son? *“ARE YE NOT MUCH BETTER THAN THEY?”* - This refers not to any natural goodness or wisdom in men. We are a sinful people and do not by nature know our God and Creator (Isa. 1:2-4). Our being better than the animals can only be due to the grace of God in Christ wherein His glory shines through in our salvation!

Worrying about the future will not add second to our lives. Consider the beauty of the lilies of the field and how God has arrayed them in such beauty, not because of their toil or care, but because of His sovereign will. Again, this is not giving us an excuse for not working for the necessities of daily life. The Lord’s is forbidding us to worry over these things to the point of neglecting the more important spiritual and eternal matters of life. We are commanded to believe in and depend upon God to provide for us as He will bless our labor to do so. Worrying reveals *“LITTLE FAITH.”*

*“O YE OF LITTLE FAITH”* - *“Faith”* in the Bible and for a true child of God is BELIEVING WHAT GOD SAYS. In salvation it is believing in the Lord Jesus Christ for all salvation and all righteousness (Matt. 6:33). In life here on earth it is believing that God will bless us and take care of us as we use the means He has given us to live on this earth. Whenever a person becomes so anxious over the necessities of physical life so as to cause him/her to ignore, neglect, or reject the glory of God in Christ, they are acting in unbelief. Shall God not take care of all our needs according to His riches in glory? If God has given His only-begotten Son to save us from our sins, do you think He will not care for us with the things of this life? This means He will give us what we need as long as He has determined that we should be here on earth. So as true children of the kingdom of heaven we are to cast all our *“care upon Him; for He careth for [us]”* (1 Pet. 5:7). God knows our needs, and He will take care of us.

**(Matt. 6:33-34)** - “BUT SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD, AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS” - Our main concern in life is to seek and find God’s kingdom and His righteousness which is the Lord Jesus Christ as our Surety, Substitute, and Redeemer. Our whole existence as sinners saved by grace, as true children of God, is founded upon and centered around Christ and His righteousness imputed to us wherein we see the true value of all things, physical and spiritual. We see that the things of this world (even the good things) are corruptible and temporary. We see that the Word of God in Christ will never fade away (1 Pet. 1:24-25). We see that “*the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost*” (Rom. 14:17). We know that it would be bad for us to be without food and clothing physically, but it would be far worse for us to stand before God naked, without Christ’s righteousness imputed to us, and to hear Him say, “Depart from Me; I never knew you.” There are so many who are wise and diligent to make money and gain the things of this world but who are ignorant of and not submitted to the righteousness of God in Christ (Rom. 10:1-3). They will perish unless God brings them to seek HIS kingdom and HIS righteousness in Christ (Rom. 10:4). “*For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*” (Matt. 16:26).

“AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU” - As we pray “give us this day our daily bread” (Matt. 6:11), we can trust God to provide ALL things we need both temporally and eternally. It is unbelief to claim to trust God according to His Word to provide what we need and then worry about these things to the point of neglecting the things that honor and glorify God in Christ. But this is something we all have to fight as we struggle in the warfare of the flesh and the Spirit. So, we must continue to rely upon God and “TAKE THEREFORE NO THOUGHT FOR THE MORROW.” Again, taking “no thought for the morrow” does not mean that it is sinful for us to think about and plan for the future. It is sinful for us to worry about the future and be so consumed with anxiety for the future that we spend all of our time and money trying to control what only God can control and to neglect the things that honor God in Christ.

“FOR THE MORROW SHALL TAKE THOUGHT FOR THE THINGS OF ITSELF. SUFFICIENT UNTO THE DAY IS THE EVIL THEREOF” - This is not fatalism. It is faith in God who works all things after the council of His own will for His glory and our eternal good (Rom. 8:28; Eph. 1:11). This does not excuse us from being diligent to use all the proper means God has given us to live well upon this earth, but it is recognizing that it is all in HIS hands, and we must rest in Him. The word “evil” is “trouble.” The meaning is that it will do us no good to worry anxiously about tomorrow because each day we live presents its own set of problems with which we have to deal. If we can trust God for our eternal well-being, then we can certainly trust Him to help us each day. If God freely gives us everything we need for salvation in and by the Lord Jesus Christ, He will provide our needs here on earth. So, again, “SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD, AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS; AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU.”

So let our prayer be that God would grant us grace to cast all our sinful concerns and anxious worries upon Him, that our priorities would be so ordered that our first thoughts and the first desires of our hearts might always be drawn to Him based upon His all-sufficient, justifying righteousness through which grace reigns in His kingdom. And may we grow in grace so as not to worry about tomorrow, knowing as Paul recorded in *Romans 14:8*, “*For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord’s.*”